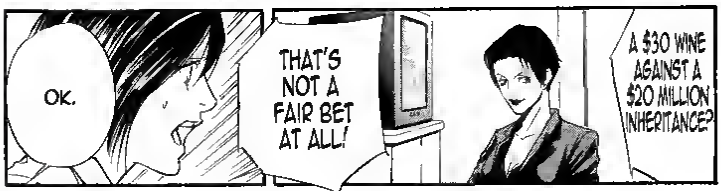
#32 Take off that mask....

HAH! THIS IS TOO MUCH!
HOW AMUSING.
THIS WINE, ELEGANT? A MASQUERADE?
I SAW IT CLEARLY THROUGH THIS WINE.
ARISTOCRATS DRESSED IN MYSTERIOUS COSTUMES, AS THOUGH THE ELEGANT PARTY WAS AN ILLUSION FOR THE NIGHT.
A MASQUERADE.
WELL?
HOWEVER, IF EVERYONE PASSES OVER IT...
YOU WILL FULFILL ONE REQUEST FROM ME, UNCONDITIONALLY.
I WILL SUPPLY IT TO YOU FOR YOUR COMPETITION, COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE...
NOW, IF BY SOME CHANCE THIS WINE HAPPENS TO OUTSELL THE OTHER FOUR...

I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION THEN.
YES. IT'S THE $30 WINE THAT YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.
MS. SAIONJI.
YOU'RE LAUGHING BECAUSE THIS WINE IS CHEAP, AREN'T YOU?
ARE THE WINES TOMINE CHOSE ALL MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THIS?
OF COURSE YES. THEY ARE!
THE CHEAPEST IS TWICE THE PRICE.
SEE? I TOLD YOU.
TOMINE WILL HAVE CHOSEN OTHER GOOD WINES AS WELL.
LET'S JUST...
I ACCEPT.
HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR REQUEST?
WE'LL DO IT LIKE YOU SAY.

WHAT?
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE JOKING!
IF YOU LOSE...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
YOU WILL ABANDON THE TEARS OF GOD AND THE TWELVE APOSTLES.


OK.
THAT'S NOT A FAIR BET AT ALL!
A $30 WINE AGAINST A $20 MILLION INHERITANCE?

...
SO, WHERE IS THIS EVENT BEING HELD?
Are you listening to me!?
WAIT, WHAT!? SHIZUKU!
IT'S A DEAL.

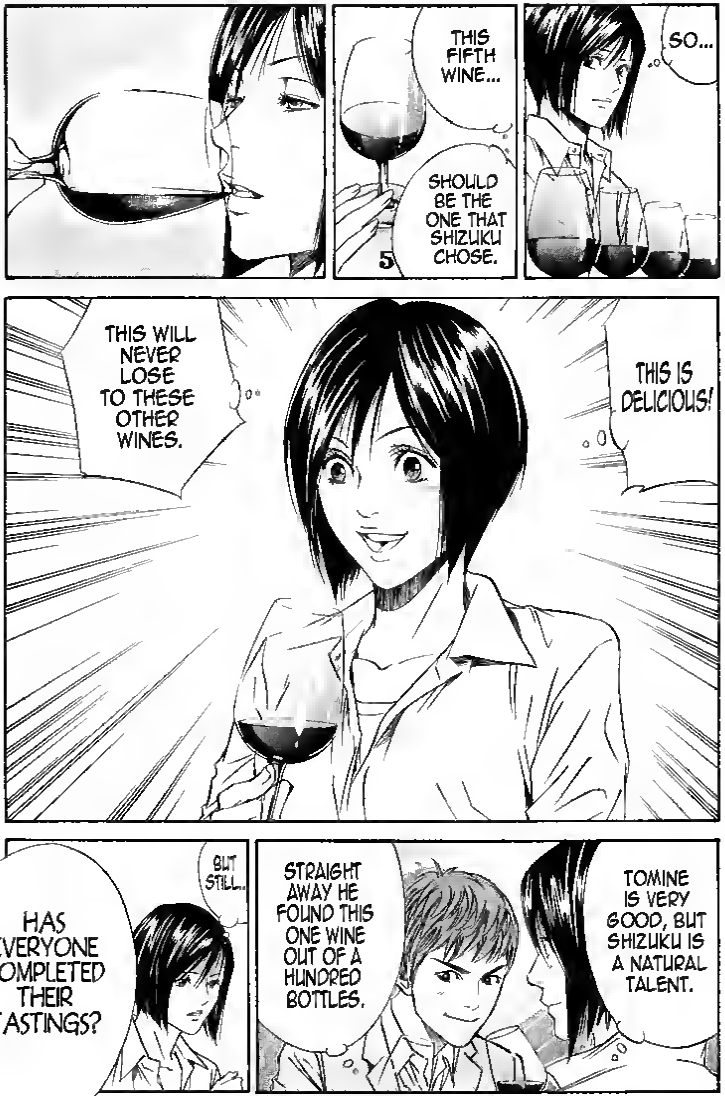
SHIZUKU.
THIS IS A RIDICULOUS PLAN,
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THE SAION CORPORATION APPRECIATES YOUR CUSTOM.
THAT'S WHY IT'LL WORK.
THE 4 WINES CHOSEN BY ISSEI TOMINE ARE ALL TOP CLASS...
I CAN'T LOSE.
ASSUMING THAT THESE ARE TRUE WINE CONNOISSEURS GATHERED IN HERE BY HER,
TRUST ME.
HUH?

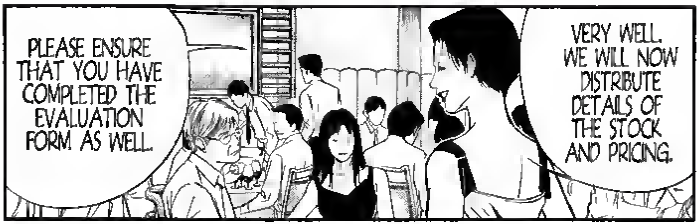
NOW, IF YOU WOULD ALL PLEASE TAKE YOUR DESIGNATED SEATS.
YOU WILL FIND 5 WINES RECOMMENDED BY US.
PLEASE TASTE EACH ONE BLIND,
AND NOTE YOUR ASSESSMENT ON THE FORM.
AFTERWARDS I WILL REVEAL THE BRANDS AND PRICE OF EACH.
Saion Corporation
PLEASE EVALUATE THEIR TASTE, FIRST, AND CONSIDER WHETHER YOU MIGHT MAKE A PURCHASE.
THEY WILL ALL BE AVAILABLE AT SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS.
THIS IS QUITE A FUN IDEA.
SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO BUY OR NOT PURELY BASED ON TASTE, WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE BRAND?
IT'S SO LIKE SAION CORP.
YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR OWN NOSE AND TONGUE TO JUDGE.

.....
Which one next...
WOAH, NUMBER 2 IS AWESOME TOO!
WOW! NUMBER 1 IS GREAT!
MIYABI, TRY IT!
WHO'S THAT?
I'm so embarrassed.
Tch.

WOW, THIS IS VERY DELICIOUS.
THIS IS A REALLY AMAZING WINE!

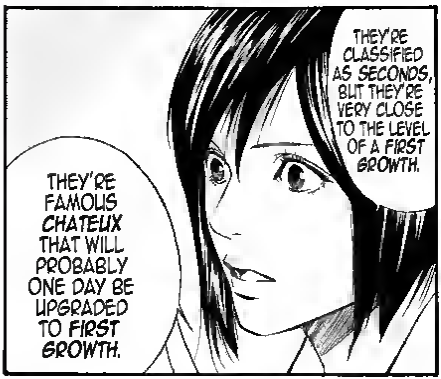
HE'S SO SHAME-LESS...
HAA!
Even though he might lose ¥20 million...


SO...
THIS FIFTH WINE...
SHOULD BE THE ONE THAT SHIZUKU CHOSE.
5
THIS WILL NEVER LOSE TO THESE OTHER WINES.
THIS IS DELICIOUS!
TOMINE IS VERY GOOD, BUT SHIZUKU IS A NATURAL TALENT.
STRAIGHT AWAY HE FOUND THIS ONE WINE OUT OF A HUNDRED BOTTLES.
BUT STILL...
HAS EVERYONE COMPLETED THEIR TASTINGS?


PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE EVALUATION FORM AS WELL.
VERY WELL. WE WILL NOW DISTRIBUTE DETAILS OF THE STOCK AND PRICING.

NO WAY!!
BUT LOOK AT THIS!
OH...
WOW!
THAT'S NOT THAT GOOD
YES, IT'S VERY UNEXPECTED.

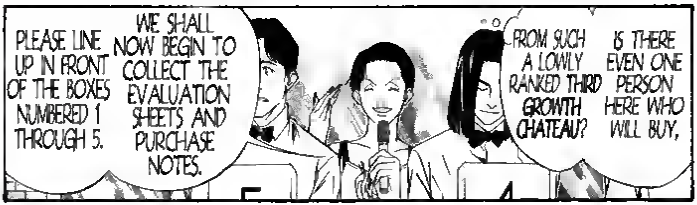
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?
THE WINE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO HOLD ITS OWN, BUT THE OTHER FOUR ARE EXCELLENT
AND IF IT LOSES...

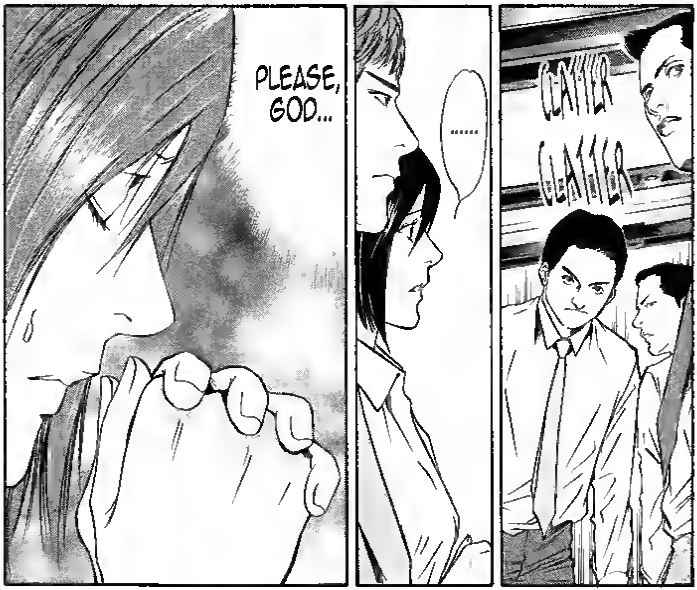

THEY'RE CLASSIFIED AS SECONDS, BUT THEY'RE VERY CLOSE TO THE LEVEL OF A FIRST GROWTH.
THEY'RE FAMOUS CHATEUX THAT WILL PROBABLY ONE DAY BE UPGRADED TO FIRST GROWTH.

WHAT!? 1 THROUGH 4 ARE ALL SECOND GROWTH CHATEAUX!
AND THEY'RE THE "SUPER SECONDS".
WHAT ARE "SUPER SECONDS"?

NUMBER 5 MUST ALSO BE A SECOND TOO..
SURELY THEN
SO THAT'S WHY THEY ARE SO GOOD.
HUH...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST TOMINE AND HIS FAT HEAD.
DAMN.
AND IT'S NOT EVEN PARTICULARLY WELL THOUGHT OF AS A THIRD GROWTH CHATEAU AT THAT!.
WHAT? ONLY THIRD!?
I KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.
THESE GUYS ARE PROFES-SIONAL BUYERS...
I'M SIMPLY APPROACHING THIS AS A BEER SALESMAN.
WE'LL SEE.

AND THEY'RE FROM THE "SUPER SECONDS", ALMOST AT THE LEVEL OF THE BIG FIVE FIRST GROWTH CHATEAUX.
THOSE FOUR WINES ARE ALL FROM HIGHLY RANKED SECOND GROWTH CHATEAUX.
TIME TO BRING THIS TO A CLOSE.
HEHE


PLEASE LINE UP IN FRONT OF THE BOXES NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 5.
WE SHALL NOW BEGIN TO COLLECT THE EVALUATION SHEETS AND PURCHASE NOTES.
FROM SUCH A LOWLY RANKED THIRD GROWTH CHATEAU?
IS THERE EVEN ONE PERSON HERE WHO WILL BUY,


PLEASE, GOD...
.....
CLEATER
CLEATER

BUT THIS WILL ENSURE YUTAKA KANZAKI'S COLLECTION GOES TO ISSEI TOMINE.
AND THEN I SHALL SELL THEM.
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD ACTUALLY AGREE TO THOSE TERMS.
I EXPECTED TO HAVE TO AT LEAST GOAD HIM INTO IT A LITTLE. FOOLISH RICH BOY...
THE COLLECTION OF YUTAKA KANZAKI WILL COMMAND A PREMIUM.
I DARE SAY THE COLLECTION CONTAINS SOME EXTRAORDINARILY RARE WINES.
HM?
I HOPE HE NOW, DOESN'T SELL ANY. THE ULTIMATE HUMILIATION.
I SHALL ENJOY THIS.

QUICK!
LET ME THROUGH!
NO QUEUE BARGING!
STOP PUSHING!

I'LL TAKE 20 CASES!
I'LL TAKE 30 CASES. I MUST HAVE THEM!
5
3
A
WHAT!?
I SAID NO QUEUE BARGING!
HEY! I WAS IN FRONT!
DON'T STAND ON MY FOOT!
CALM DOWN!!
THE OTHER FOUR WINES ARE EXCELLENT.
BUT THE ONE I CHOSE...
MEN WHO CHOOSE WINES BASED ON RATINGS AND ESTABLISHED REPUTATION ARE NOT TRUE WINE LOVERS.
AND IF THE WINE HAPPENS TO BE CHEAP AS WELL, WHAT COULD BE BETTER?
WINE IS NOT THE SAME AS DESIGNER HAND-BAGS.
WHAT?
IT SHOWS THE TRUE APPRECIATION FOR WINE THEY ALL MUST HAVE.
EVERYONE IS CONVERGING ON NUMBER 5, THE THIRD GROWTH CHATEAU!
WHAT IS THIS...?

WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PURE FLAVOUR.
IF SUCH A WINE IS OFFERED AT LESS THAN HALF THE PRICE, A TRUE WINE LOVER WILL NOT HESITATE TO BUY IT.
THESE MEN DESPERATE FOR THIS WINE ARE TRUE WINE LOVERS.
IF THEY BUY THIS WINE...
IT'S BECAUSE THEY ALSO WANT THEIR CUSTOMERS TO BUY AND ENJOY IT.
NOW, I THINK I'LL HELP MYSELF TO A LITTLE MORE OF THIS LEFTOVER WINE!
Aha! There you are! Get in my belly!
EW, GROSS
What are you, a child?
.....

SOMEHOW...
BUT...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN A MONTH SINCE HE STARTED DRINKING WINE.
HE SEEMS TO REALLY ENJOY IT.

FIFTY.
SEND THEM TO SHIZUKU KANZAKI CARE OF THE TAIYO BEER WINE DEPARTMENT.
HMPH. AS YOU WILL.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL DEAD STOCK ANYWAY.
HOW MANY BOTTLES DO YOU WANT?
SAIONJI HERE.
AH, ISSEI.
HOW MUCH OF THIS WINE...
RING RING
.....
SHIZUKU... WAIT.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. YES...
THERE IS ONE MORE WINE THAT I HAD CONSIDERED INCLUDING AT THE TIME.
THEY SAID THAT ONE OF THE WINES I CHOSE TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.
I JUST HEARD FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR.

WAS THAT WINE...?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T APPROVE BECAUSE IT'S NOT A POPULAR BRAND, SO I REMOVED IT.
OH, YOU KNOW IT?
BUT IT'S AT LEAST THE EQUAL OF THE OTHER FOUR BOTTLES I CHOSE.
THE QUALITY OF THAT CHATEAU DIFFERS YEAR BY YEAR, FOR WHICH ROBERT PARKER JR. CRITICISES THEM HARSHLY.
BUT THE '01 IS A SPECIAL CASE.
.....
A MIRACULOUS MERGER OF WEATHER, EARTH, AND MAN.
A MARGAUX WINE YOU CAN TRULY CALL EXCELLENT.

Translation

IMARI

Edit

NEMESIS

Proofread

ALTEREGGO

Feb 27 '12

March 24 '12

Little Black Butterflies

Rob Lowell

The Test

http://lbb.littlenitebutterflies.net/

.....
ARE YOU THERE, MAKI?
YES, I'M STILL HERE.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING STORY.
VERY INTERESTING INDEED...

#32 END